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Remarks

Claims 1 through 18 are cancelled and new claims 19 through 27 are presented.

The applicant appreciates the Examiners effort to prepare and transmit proposed claim amendments. The Examiner's proposal is included as claim 23.

Claims 5 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Stokes, Apparatus for mounting trolling devices on watercraft, U.S. Patent No. 5,673,507 (Oct. 7, 1997). Claims 5 and 18 are cancelled and thus this rejection is moot.

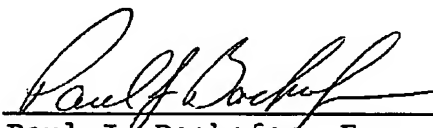
Claims 3, 4, 7 through 12 and 14 through 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Thoenke, Fishing System, U.S. Patent 4,388,774 (Jun. 21, 1983) in view of Stokes. Claims 3, 4, 7 through 12 and 14 through 17 are cancelled and thus this rejection is moot.

Conclusion

This response has addressed all of the Examiner's objections and grounds for rejection. The rejections based on prior art are moot. Consideration and allowance of the newly presented claims is requested.

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By:

  
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